

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 050355

EXDIS FOR ATHERTON

FOLLOWING IS REPEAT STATE 050355, SENT CAIRO, INFO SECRETARY
02 MARCH 76:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 050355 TOSEC 060048

EXDIS - FOR EILTS FROM SISCO

E.O11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, EG

SUBJECT: CONSULTATION WITH CONGRESS BEGINS ON US-EGYPT
MILITARY RELATIONSHIP

1. DEPARTMENT HAS BEGUN CONSULTING KEY SENATORS AND
CONGRESSMEN ABOUT ESTABLISHMENT OF LIMITED ARMS SUPPLY
RELATIONSHIP WITH EGYPT. YOU SHOULD THEREFORE TELL
EGYPTIANS, AT WHATEVER LEVEL YOU THINK BEST, THAT WE
HAVE DECIDED TO MOVE AHEAD WITH CONSULTATIONS, AND ARE
DOING SO. DEPENDING ON RECEPTION ON THE HILL, WE
WOULD THEN ENVISAGE BEING IN TOUCH WITH GOE ABOUT
SPECIFIC ITEMS OF EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING EGYPTIANS
MIGHT WISH TO BUY. WE ARE OF COURSE AWARE OF THEIR
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DESIRE FOR SIX C-130'S AND WE WILL GO AHEAD WITH THAT

TRANSACTION WHEN OUR CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTATIONS
HAVE PROCEEDED FAR ENOUGH AND SATISFACTORILY ENOUGH.

2. YOU SHOULD CAUTION EGYPTIANS THAT WE ARE THINKING--
AND CONSULTING CONGRESS--IN TERMS OF RELATIVELY LIMITED
ARMS SALES RELATIONSHIP, BOTH WITH RESPECT TO AMOUNTS AND
TYPES OF WEAPONS. WE WOULD NONETHELESS SEE IT AS
IMPORTANT BROADENING OF OUR RELATIONS WITH EGYPT AND
IMPORTANT INDICATION OF OUR CONFIDENCE IN PRESIDENT
SADAT AND HIS POLICIES.

3. FOR YOUR INFORMATION, THERE FOLLOWS PERTINENT
PORTION OF TALKING POINTS WE ARE USING ON HILL:

QUOTE. NEITHER THE UNITED STATES NOR EGYPT HAS DISCUSSED
IN SPECIFIC TERMS WHAT SORT OF LONG-TERM RELATIONSHIP
SHOULD DEVELOP IN THE MILITARY FIELD. HOWEVER, WE HAVE
MADE IT VERY CLEAR TO SADAT THAT WE WOULD NOT ENVISAGE
ANYTHING WHICH COULD UPSET THE MILITARY BALANCE IN THE
AREA, A BALANCE WHICH IS STRONGLY IN ISRAEL'S FAVOR.
HE UNDERSTANDS THAT IT NOT OUR INTENTION IN THE FORESEE-
ABLE FUTURE TO DO ANYTHING OF MAJOR MILITARY SIGNIFICANCE
IN THE SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP.

WE HAVE NOT REACHED AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT ON WHAT WE WILL
SUPPLY. THE ONLY SPECIFIC MILITARY ITEMS WE ARE
PRESENTLY CONSIDERING ARE SIX C-130 AIRCRAFT AND TRAINING
FOR SOME EGYPTIAN OFFICERS AT MILITARY SCHOOLS IN THIS
COUNTRY. THE EGYPTIANS HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT PRIOR TO ANY
DECISION ON THESE ITEMS OR ADDITIONAL MILITARY GOODS
OR SERVICES THE ADMINISTRATION WILL CONSULT FULLY WITH
CONGRESS.

WE HAVE CONSIDERED ARMS IN FIVE BROAD CATEGORIES:

(A) MILITARY TRAINING AND VISITS.

(B) PASSIVE MILITARY EQUIPMENT SUCH AS TARGET DRONES,
MINE DETECTORS AND RADIOS.

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(C) AIR TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT, C-130'S AND HELICOPTERS.

(D) OTHER NON-OFFENSIVE EQUIPMENT SUCH AS RADAR AND
PARTS FOR EQUIPMENT ALREADY IN USE.

(E) MORE SENSITIVE ITEMS WHICH THE EGYPTIANS HAVE
MENTIONED, ALTHOUGH HAVE NOT REQUESTED. THIS INCLUDES
F-5'S, APC'S, ANTI-TANK MISSILES, AND SOME TORPEDOS.

DEPENDING ON THE OUTCOME OF OUR CONSULTATIONS, WE WILL PROCEED TO CONSIDER SPECIFIC SALES IN THE FIRST THREE CATEGORIES. AT SOME LATER POINT, WE MIGHT WANT TO CONSIDER MORE SENSITIVE EQUIPMENT, AND WE WOULD LIKE YOUR VIEWS ON THIS AS WELL.

WITH RESPECT TO THE C-130'S, WE WOULD USE THE FOREIGN MILITARY SALES ACT, RATHER THAN COMMERCIAL CHANNELS, AND WOULD THUS SUBMIT IT FORMALLY TO THE CONGRESS UNDER THE NELSON-BINGHAM AMENDMENT. WE HAVE PENDING SEVERAL APPLICATIONS FOR MUNITIONS CONTROL LICENSES FOR ITEMS IN CATEGORY (B). UNQUOTE.

4. YOU MAY DRAW ON TALKING POINTS IN DESCRIBING NATURE OF CONSULTATIONS, BUT YOU SHOULD EMPHASIZE THAT CATEGORIES (D) AND (E) ARE ONLY FOR POSSIBLE CONSIDERATION AT LATER TIME.

5. FYI ONLY: I INFORMED DINITZ MARCH 1 OF OUR CONSULTATIONS ALONG LINES OF ABOVE TALKING POINTS. INGERSOLL UNQUOTE. INGERSOLL

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